What is a DOI?

The 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* requires a DOI at the end of a citation if one is available. This DOI, according to the new *APA Style Guide to Electronic References (2012)*, is written with a URL attached. A digital object identifier (DOI) is a series of numbers and characters assigned permanently to any entity—for instance, a journal article—for use on digital networks, and it generally appears somewhere toward the end of an item record in a database.

Here is an example of a DOI: 10.1016/j.jada.2009.08.015

When adding a DOI to a citation, include https://doi.org/ at the beginning of the number.

For example:  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jada.2009.08.015

The current APA Style includes a DOI as a standard part of a citation whenever it is available. They are used to provide current information about an item, including where the item (or information about it) can be found on the Internet. To find a citation (and sometimes the full text) of an item by its DOI, you can search at http://www.doi.org or http://www.crossref.org. **Note:** Before paying a publisher for electronic access to an article, always consult with your librarian to see if your library already has access.

**Example:**


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**To locate a DOI:**

Do you see a DOI in the database citation, in the database record, or on the first page of the article? NO

Go to [http://search.crossref.org/](http://search.crossref.org/).

Type in the ARTICLE TITLE.

Hit enter.

YES

Did you find a DOI? NO

Locate the homepage for the journal by searching the Internet.

YES

NO

Paste the DOI at the end of the citation. See example above.

Paste the DOI at the end of the citation. See example above.

Does the journal have a homepage?

YES

NO

Type the URL for the journal homepage at the end of the citation.

Type the URL for the journal homepage at the end of the citation. 

Include citation with no additional information.